

THE WEST INDIES.

THE REVOLUTION IN CUBA.

ANTONOV.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

HAVANA, Feb. 17.—With a fair number of papers, and a respectable party both of Spain and Cuba, Antonio has been a standard doctrine. The insular press has dismissed it perhaps more than might be expected. Church, territorial integrity, independence, and other general topics banished out of argument by decree. Whatever remains of Cubanism in the press of Havana has mostly gone into the Antonio. The one liberal idea permitted by that which one of the papers called *El Educador*—a sort of confederacy of popular Spanish papers not one pleads for this doctrine, which is a sure sign that the number of genuine liberals among the Spaniards of the island is much inferior to the Bonapartist army of the place. The Spanish bureaucracy has placed inferior interest. The Spanish bureaucracy has blood and drawn blood, and the bureaucracy party will not surrender the mildest form of self-government to the island without strenuous compulsion. The idea, however, has taken a new emphasis from the risings in the districts of Villa Clara and Cienfuegos, and perhaps Trinidad. The Government papers profess, for mysterious reasons, not to believe their sincerity; but it is nevertheless true that if Spain could ever possess the means of doing anything at once it would settle the Cuban question by doing two things: right away—first, grant the autonomy; second, abolish slavery. The autonomy which is demanded for Cuba is based upon the programme of the Republics of Spain. It will serve to quote it here in the eloquent words of Castellar, one of the best in mind and heart of the Peninsula's leaders:

"I demand the abolition of slavery, so that we can present ourselves in the Congress of the peoples with the trophies of broken chains."

Second: Autonomy of the islands of Puerto-Rico and Cuba, which shall have their own Parliament, administration, government, and a bond of nationality uniting them to Spain as Canada is united to England, so that founding the liberty of States we shall conserve the integrity of the national territory. We wish that the islands of Cuba and Puerto-Rico may be our sisters, and not wish that they may be transatlantic Poland.

Third: Recognition unreserved and unambiguous that the capital fact of the century is the fact of the independence of the peoples of its nationalities by the heroes of our own independence.

Fourth: Recognition that the republican form of government is the one proper to America. Renunciation of all the stupid dreams of monarchical restorationists.

Fifth: Immediate recognition of all the Spanish-American countries whose independence we may not have recognized already, and a friendly arrangement of all our difficulties with those people among whom, as Spaniards, we have a country and a hearth, and who, as Spaniards, are our brothers, feeling the warmth of our blood in their veins, and giving form to their thought with our common language.

Sixth: Special and cordial recognition of the Mexican Republic, whose chief is the model of the civilizer, the savior of the democracy; and the severe judge, who has made the resurrection of monarchy in America impossible.

Seventh: Peace at once with the republics of the Pacific.

Eighth: Moral support in the future to a federation of Spanish republics.

Ninth: Constant aspiration for a political interior more democratic, for harmony between our institutions and those of America, to represent the interests of its peoples, to be their voice in the councils of Europe, in which office Spain will have the noblest ministry of modern history—that of being, through moral relations, mediator between the old world and the new.

No one expected that this idealistic programme would be carried out by the business firm carrying on the trade of Provisional Government at Madrid, and that good morals and high sense would put into the old rogue's work of managing provinces. But it is more practical and safe than any leading notion the providers have attempted. We are certain that it will require a genius of morals and sense to effectually save Cuba; and it looks as if the failure of Castellar's programme were the loss of the island. One word as to a part of this programme. If the Spanish Republicans are inspired by the Mexican experiment it would be well for them to study their ground and their men, and patiently digest history. They can make sure whether the Republic is an idea or only a sentiment, and scarce that, with the great mass of Spaniards who can neither read nor write. They can weigh Prim's words, that "You cannot make a republic without republicans," and set to work making republicans by free schools. But Mexico will teach them soberly that the worst conceivable despotism is chronic war kept up by a few who have ideas at the expense of millions they never instruct. Cuba will be another instance in point if she is to win her independence and keep it in any sinister way, if her liberty and reform depend mainly upon the slaveholder. Fortunately for her, as some of her ablest think, the United States is not far off.

The autonomy here desired for Cuba is quite in accord with the ideas of the Spanish republicans, though I believe one of the loyal papers attributes giving the name with some qualifications to a plan of provincialism which offers Cuba the rights of Andalusia and Catalonia, minus some important differences. The Canadian self-government represents the general demand of those who favor the territorial integrity of Spain under republican forms, putting quite out of the question those who were and might still be autonomists who trust to Spanish government, and be assured, to quote the words of one of the shrewdest of the insurgent leaders, that "the liberties of Cuba would be safe from the fluctuations of Spanish politics." That is not believed possible under any popular disposition of island affairs. But it is important to know the features and substance of the proposed reform, and I present you here the draft of a project to that end, which lately attracted interest. It is not the wisest or safest which might be presented under head of autonomy, yet it shows the progressive working of the Cuban mind even upon the conservative side of affairs.

I. An Island Assembly, chosen by suffrage, in a manner to be determined by vote.

II. The Assembly to elect its President and make general laws, any one of which disapproved by Spain shall be over one year, then, if insisted upon, shall be enacted. The legislation as to affairs, special and particular, of the island shall be executed immediately following the approval of the Governor-General. If he disapproves, it will be over six months, and then go into effect if the Assembly so decide.

III. The Assembly exclusively will make the budget of the island, excepting that of the national expenses, which quota shall be fixed by the general government in accord with that of Cuba.

IV. Provision that the employments of the island governments shall be filled on nomination of the Governor, or the delegates, except as regard the forces of war and marine.

V. The Governor-General appointed by Spain as its delegate, will have command of the land and naval forces which may be necessary in the judgment of the Assembly. He may make use of them without the Assembly's advice only in case of actual rebellion.

VI. The mother country may have the initiative in the affairs of the island on consent of the Assembly.

VII. This constitution not to be modified without consent of the Assembly, and after a year's notice.

IX. The civil Governor-Superior, in accord with the City Council, and three times the number of principal taxpayers, may provide the number of delegates which shall be elected, and the manner by which they may be chosen. This project, I have reason to believe, was made out by a liberal conservative and slaveholder, for it is dumb or unintelligent respecting the subject of suffrage—indeed, it sells away the whole framework of government to the "triple number" of tax-payers and slaveholders. But even the Judas of Conservatism, who sells flesh and blood, shows in Cuba that the world has advanced.

There is no concession in the present attitude of the Cuban Government. On the contrary, it seems all hostility. Liberty of meeting, of the press, and of speech, all been choked; the passport system (which is in its state of siege) court-martial is set up in the capital to try the greatest and smallest of the reasonable offenses; arrests without known cause have been increasing; and the offense of *infidencia* has been construed to expose a multitude of sinners against Spain. Besides declaring martial-law, the Government of Trinidad forbids, from six in the

evening till six in the morning, the transit of horsemen other than cavalry of the Government. The offense of infidelity is defined to include treason, rebellion, conspiracy, sedition, reception of rebels, intelligence with the enemy, coalitions of workmen, seditious crying, bad news-giving, disturbing manifestations and allegories, etcetera. At the same time the Captain-General takes pains to say that "there is no foundation for the rumors which circulate in the city to the end of alarming families. After the 20th of the month will occur what now occurs." He promises that "only disturbers of order will be exposed to the immediate and severe application of the laws, guards always of honorable and pacific men, whatever their opinions." All news propagated in the city to the contrary of that indicated, will be treated as "an offense against authority, and a stigma cast upon the proverbial honor of Spain." Thus does Spain become inquisitorial as to the question of offending whenever she wishes to crush. The various orders given from the Captain-General leave no means wanting to construe an offense. Never, says a loyal paper, were the restrictions upon the press more severe. The danger of the Spanish cause may be judged from the weight and ingenuity of its extensive system of restrictions.

The Captain-General thanks \$50,000 merchants for the monthly sum of \$6,180 to support the operations of the military, and the planters and merchants lately invited to guarantee a loan, have agreed to a loan of eight millions and additional imposts—four reals on each box of sugar; \$1 for each cargo of tobacco; 25 per cent. increase of tax on industry and commerce, 5 per cent. on customs. The military situation accords with the Government necessities. Telegraphic communication with Sagua, Matanzas, Villa Clara, and Cienfuegos, had been cut by the rebels of the two latter districts, and it was feared that an attempt would be made on the telegraph and railroad beyond Macagua in the north-west. Accordingly troops had been sent to several points of the road in small detachments. The official gazette states that the rebels to the number of 2,000 had been met at Manicargueta, between Villa Clara and Trinidad, and dispersed, 30 being killed.

It is as we thought in Spain. The partnership of Prim and Serrano was an organized quarrel, bound to break out. There are those who believe that Prim is a Spanish hero, qualified by some of the talent and character of Capt. Rynders; that Serrano betrayed his Queen personally; and who, at all events, knowing the individuality of both men, will not trust to the honesty or ambitions of either. These are the serpents hung up for the pealing of Cuba, and with them, it may be, Montpensier. It is possible to obtain autonomy and the Republic from a Spanish Government of Prim, Serrano, Ayala, Topete, Dulce, and the rest? Topete and his family are native Cubans, but nearly all his women have been in protest and petition against the decreed liberty of conscience. Serrano and Dulce have Cuban wives, and to that extent are progressive in respect to Cuba. You report from Spain that they are to abolish slavery; but let us not be unduly glib. There is a talent of delay well known to Cubans, and probably none possess it more strongly than the politicians of Spain. Scarcely the united and urgent sentiment of the world will, I fear, move it beyond its pace against slavery.

THE FORCES ON BOTH SIDES.
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

HAVANA, Feb. 20.—More troops have come. Today takes place a review of the troops in the city, said to number, with the addition of the fresh troops from Spain, 10,000 or 12,000 men. The Cubans are beaten on parade, for certain. I fear a little for those bodies of insurgents who demonstrate without center or base against the well-armed soldiers of Spain. Yesterday the official paper boasted the Government could rely upon 70,000 men in veterans, volunteers, and trained militia; but nobody believes it by much. If it be all true, then it is an admission that the Spaniards have put more troops into the field than they take pride in telling, after having said that 6,000 or 7,000 men would suffice the insurrection. The Cubans have their side to show: Cobre, Cañey, Holguin, Sagua, Puerto-Principe, Villa Clara, Manicargueta, Gibara, Jaguay, Sancti-Spiritu, Trinidad, the Cuzco Hills, neighborhoods or headquarters of disaffection, each of which the Spaniards must visit pretty thoroughly before being able to say that the rebellion is at an end. Though without precise data I venture upon the following estimate of the rebel forces:

Under Céspedes, Aguilera, Marmol.....	8,000
About Holguin.....	3,000
Quesada's army.....	6,000
Villa Clara insurgents.....	2,000
Protest of Manicargueta.....	2,000
Rebels of Jaguay.....	2,500
About Holguin and Gibara.....	1,500
Protest of Trinidad and Sancti-Spiritu.....	1,000
Small demonstrations elsewhere.....	1,000
Total.....	25,000

Fourteen thousand men may be nearer the number under Céspedes and Marmol and about Holguin. The figures given are based upon intelligent opinion, not my own, and include some statements of the Spanish press, but they do not pretend to accuracy. The revolutionists count any day upon 100,000 men or more if they can find arms for them. As the Spanish press has estimated the available strength of the Government side at 70,000, it may be presumptuous to venture an independent calculation. But if only to show over what an extent the loyal army is distributed the following rough guess is hazarded:

In the capital and forts.....	10,000
Pinar del Rio district.....	800
Cienfuegos.....	2,000
Quadrado, Matanzas.....	2,000
Near Jaguay, under Gov. Colon.....	700
Quadrado's army.....	5,000
Protest of Manicargueta.....	2,000
In Puerto-Principe.....	3,000
In Villa Clara.....	600
Cardenas, Matanzas.....	500
Remedios, Batabano, &c.....	700
Santiago de Cuba.....	3,000
Naval force.....	2,000
New recruits at various points.....	3,000
Small troops expected daily.....	6,000
Total.....	43,800

On both the belligerent sides I have no doubt the figures given are rather in excess, and it is likely to be most on the Spanish side. But for representing so many garrisons I have the authority of the loyal press, whatever it may be worth. Three-fourths of the stated forces are probably volunteer, and over and above this general number the *Diario* reports it a militia sufficient to take out an army of 70,000. Believe it who pleases. It remains only to be said that in the table given the militia has been counted in, in one or two places at least. The military moral to be deduced from all this showing is that Spain has too many places to garrison, by reason of which the rebellion is all the stronger. The rebels fear the mountains, and may win their battle without gaining many victories.

The news from the Eastern district that Céspedes and Aguilera had seated themselves upon some hacienda between Nuevitas and Gibara, with the intention of opening at no distant day intimate communication with the forces of Quesada. The quarter of Santiago de Cuba is said to be fully protected by the Spanish troops at present, nearly all the rebels having gone away. Holguin was represented as being still held by the loyalists, but surrounded by rebels. Valmasosa has reentered Manzanillo, having sent but a portion of his troops to Santiago de Cuba. The loyalists are complaining that a score of houses and plantations have been burned in and about Holguin, and the rebels are accused of barbarities which, I suspect, may be committed on both sides, but mostly on the side of the despotism, and perhaps, too, by very great odds. Remember, Trinidad, Sancti-Spiritu, Sagua, Cienfuegos, and other places were all suffering in population and property the consequence of the insurrection; and so with other towns, not directly in the rebellion. In Sancti-Spiritu, Trinidad, Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, and three or four other towns, martial law reigns, and planters roundabout are especially overawed. The Laquey rebels, said to number 1,500, are reported by the Spaniards as in a state of dispersion, but this is merely believed. They rest on the Corcojo mountain and the Cienaga wilderness east of Cienfuegos. The war, as has been seen in the east, has taken at times a guerrillero character, and undoubtedly Count Valmasosa has suffered more than his share of its harassments and devastations. Nothing can be predicted from the present situation, except a considerable task on both sides, and a vast expense to

Cuba and Spain. The rebellion has grown stronger; so, too, has the Government, and both sides look determined. The *Diario* states, with an air of assurance, that the western rebellion will be over in *sixteen days*, and if it remains as it is, certainly it will. The Cubans never had more reason for hope and energy than now.

Captain-General Dulce has issued an order closing each port of the island as, have not custom-houses and are within certain wide limits. These are east from Cayo Bahia, and east from Cienfuegos. So commerce as well as press, speech, travel, and all other imaginable liberties are to suffer as extreme a repression as possible while the war lasts, under the new bayonet prescription adopted by Dulce for Cuba's "indication of liberties." The island never endured less liberty or than now; but war is a great despotism, and liberty war particularly so. It will be enough to ask, may demand, in the name of civilization that it shall not be cruel and merciless. I cannot say what it may become in this "country of the victor," but what has been done already. The situation is commercially odd, coffee and sugar getting high money lowering; so that one will not risk a moral or business speculation in such uncertain waters. As for the event of things, judge for yourself between two precious opinions. Gen. Concha, one of the worst of the ex-captains-general, holds that the insurrection can be quelled, but with great cost to Spain. The *Candelo*, organ of Bourbon, gives up the case as lost, and deems the safer course for Spain to make the best business terms she can out of a bad bargain, never quite retrievable, whatever be the issue. When such doctors disagree who shall decide? Whatever the decision may be, Spain will have to bleed.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.
Count Valmasosa had fortified Bayamo, with a view of making it, probably, a base for future operations. Several regiments of his troops had marched into Santiago de Cuba. His own coming was noticed in Manzanillo. A Holguin letter accuses the rebel Mamboes with having tried to burn the town, succeeding, however, in burning only a score of houses. A letter at date of the 7th says that although troops held the town still, the insurgents surrounded it, and were cutting off communications.

Captain-General Dulce has decreed that every port or point of embarkation not having a custom-house shall be closed to all kinds of vessels and all sorts of commerce, exporting or importing, within the limits eastward of the lighthouse of Cayo Bahia de Cadiz, on the north coast, and eastward of the port of Cienfuegos by the south coast. The naval commandants are charged to notify vessels found on the way to any of the closed ports.

During the past year, 8,368 Chinamen arrived in Cuba, against 14,099 in 1867. The Custom-House at Havana dispatched a day, 323,630 tobacco, and 47,814 lb. of leaf.

The *Diario* announces that the important jurisdictions of Santiago de Cuba and Guantanamo are really protected by the Spanish troops; that the main body of the rebels had retired from between Santiago and Bayamo; that Céspedes and Aguilera had situated themselves upon some hacienda between Nuevitas and Gibara, with a view of approaching the rebels further west. Puerto-Principe it reports as still unoccupied, and garrisoned by 3,000 men. It asserts that the western outbreaks will be disposed of in 15 days, and that the Governor-General reckons upon a force of 70,000 men in veterans, volunteers, and militia.

From Havana was dispatched on the 18th, 8,241 boxes and 124 blds. sugar, 84,000 twists of tobacco, 3,200 pounds of the same in leaf, 1,708 bags coffee, 10 pipes of aquadiente, 10 blds. pure molasses, and 70,000 boxes of cigars.

Two Major-Generals and three Brigadiers have arrived with the new troops from Spain, which were fully arrived with number nearly 6,000 in all. Twenty officers and 1,070 men have already come.

The *Oriental* of Holguin says that the insurgents there are "worthy brothers of the incendiaries of Bayamo," and gives a list of the houses which they have burned, along with the establishments of Nates, Vega, Perez, and Cristobal.

The *Boletín Mercantil* of Cardenas speaks of a discovery of arms not far from that place. It gives the rumor of a new rising among the Cuzco range of hills.

The father estate of Guanabo has been taken to prison for having blessed a banner of insurgents in the Jarque district.

Some hundreds of Spaniards had gone out to meet insurgents on the limits of jurisdiction between Sancti-Spiritu and Trinidad.

The Macagua district, lately regarded in danger of an uprising, has twenty-eight important sugar-mills, which produce each year more than 200,000 boxes and about 20,000 bls. Hence the Government has sent troops at once to its defense.

Don Miguel Cantero of Trinidad, and Señor Castillo of Havana, among the best known and wealthiest men of Cuba, have been arrested and sent to prison. The former owns a vast estate near Sancti-Spiritu.

The Spanish papers complain bitterly of the guerrillero campaign carried on by the rebel Marmol in the Eastern Department. A list is given of twenty houses and haciendas burned in the neighborhood of Holguin. It is not certain, however, that the rebels have burned them.

Céspedes is reported by the Spanish organ to have shot one of his generals, Modesto Diaz, for betraying the fight on the River Cauto to Count Valmasosa. The *Voz de Cuba*, a Spanish paper, reports the surrender of a petty chief named Milanes.

The Jaguay rebels were in the Corcojo Mountain, three leagues east. They defended a pass in the wilderness, known as the Cienaga. The Spaniards say that they have found three hundred carbines secreted near the mountain. The Governor of Colon had encountered some of the rebels.

The sugar mills of Cayo, three leagues from Colon, were surprised by Coyalisto, and the owners and twelve more captured. Arms and ammunition were seized likewise. There are fears of new insurrections in the Jaguay country, according to the Spanish papers.

Dulroca, Pardo, Osaguna, Meras, Menocal, and others, farmers and lawyers, were among the Jaguay insurgents, and with them a Mexican colonel. It is said at last that the number of their forces, at first reported 900, is about 2,000. The *Voz* reports that a body of the insurgents had been dispersed and 70 prisoners taken. Others had surrendered.

The Spaniards report that a favorable reaction has taken place at Villa Clara, the rebels of which had demanded autonomy, and it is thought, had received promises of one kind or other.

The *Diario* warmly commends the Captain-General's order against spreading false rumors of news. The *Prensa* recommends prompt and severe punishment of all culpable under the recent abrogation of the laws by supreme military order.

In consequence of a rising of 300 men at Bano, with cries of "Live independence, and death to Spaniards," the Lieutenant-Governor of Sancti-Spiritu has declared his jurisdiction in a state of siege. He commands rural proprietors to give notice to the authorities of all suspicious gatherings, and prohibits meetings of more than three persons at a time. Authors, editors, writers who in any way encourage sedition, will be visited with the pains of martial law. The same order in substance has been given in all the capitals of rebellious districts. The same Governor notices the victory of 29 volunteers at Sipitabo over 300 rebels.

The jurisdiction of Remedios is suffering the effects of the insurrection. Families are leaving town for Havana, and others are fleeing to the town from the rural districts. Telegraphic communication has been completely destroyed.

The *Voz de Cuba* says that a Mexican General was secreted in the coal-hole of the American steamer *Juniata*, which lately sailed for the United States. The *Prensa* says in a late editorial that the Government will take no note of being considered cruel if in the end it can secure a country united and faithful.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.
By authorization of the Provisional Government, Captain-General Dulce has dictated a reform of the

judicial code, with the reference to the judgment of Desapocito on execution upon property and estates. The Governor of Havana annuls all licenses to carry arms conceded by him. Those who have licensed arms are ordered to deposit them in the Commissariats of their respective districts at the end of four days, taking a receipt for them. The makers and sellers of arms are obliged to send to the Government, at the end of 48 hours, a detailed account of the arms and munitions in their possession, and a daily advice of what they sell, with the name and address of the buyer. Fresh licenses to carry arms must be solicited under new rules.

Gov. Lopez Roberts declares officially in the Havana papers that a malicious rumor has been circulated that the Government will give no more passports after the close of the amnesty term. He says that passports will be granted as usual after that period.

The crime of infidelity is defined in official orders as including treason or *leza-nacion*, rebellion, insurrection, conspiracy, sedition, reception of rebels, intelligence with enemies, coalition of laborers and others, manifestations, allelores, &c., for the purpose of disturbing of public order, and in any manner attacking the national integrity. These offenses, as also robbery, will hereafter be tried by Court-martial.

The crying of news in Havana is prohibited. The sellers of newspapers cannot cry out any more than their title. All who make outcry of the articles or affairs which they contain will have their copies confiscated, and be subject to penalty according to the scandal they cause.

Herewith I send you an additional order from the Captain-General, interesting to all who trade with the island.

It being indispensable to decree extraordinary means in order to fulfill the peremptory obligations of the Treasury in this island, and meet the increase of expenses consequent upon the state of war which it encounters, and considering that the gravity of the situation demands from its loyal inhabitants, already giving new proofs worthy of all admiration, that they accede to the resolve of its Government to defend, at all costs of person and property, the integrity of the national territory, and to submit to the most rigorous measures of themselves as a sacrifice to the one they imposed upon the other. In the year 1857, for purpose of the civil war which then devastated the peninsula, and in 1850, on occasion of the insurrection which took place in this island. After having heard a commission of proprietors, farmers, manufacturers, and merchants, who have come in the name of said classes, as representing their explicit sentiments, and have ratified unanimously the bases of a project which they have published, I have agreed to approve in all its parts, decreeing in virtue of my plenary powers the following:

1. From March 1, will be exacted in all the Custom-Houses of the Isle, the following export duties: 1 centavo of silver for each box of sugar; 24 centavos for each hoghead of mescalado; 2 centavos upon each tierce of tobacco in leaf; 1 centavo upon each miller of tobacco in leaf.

At the same time will be required in all the Custom-Houses, an additional charge of 5 per cent over the value of the existing import duties.

2. Also, will be enacted, and only in the current fiscal year, a charge of 25 per cent on the quotas of industrial and commercial contributions, excepting contributors whose incomes may be less than 500 escudos annually.

3. Opportune orders will be given for the direct fulfillment of these dispositions. DOMINGO DULCE.
Havana, Feb. 23.

THE STATE OF CUBAN COMMERCE.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Feb. 19.—The different articles of commerce received at present from Spain obtain no sale whatever. The schooner *Joselina* from Malore, and the brig *Diligencia*, both Spanish vessels (the latter touched at Ponce), have arrived here with general cargoes, but in view of the present stagnation of business, will have to carry their products to other ports. American produce, such as lard, potatoes, coal oil, and butter, are in great demand, and, being necessities, obtain good prices. Lumber and coprahe stock are completely unsalable, and large stocks are on hand. Two vessels are expected to arrive shortly with provisions from New-York. As regards sugar, the plantations of Nuevitas, Gibara, Santa Cruz, and Manzanillo have ceased grinding, with the exception of several small ones near Santa Cruz. In our own jurisdiction, thanks to the protection of the troops and volunteers, quite a number have commenced grinding again, and unless a rainy spell sets in we may expect to be better off toward the middle of the crops. The feasibility of doing away with the volunteer corps is being discussed, as their organization is a continual provocation to the insurgents, who set fire to the farms and estates, and cause no double loss. The rest of the cedars remaining in Nuevitas and Gibara are being shipped to Europe. Sixty thousand feet still remain in Santa Cruz, which are to be shipped to Hamburg. The stock in Manzanillo is hardly sufficient to load the vessels there waiting for it to carry to Hamburg and Bremen. In the lumber business generally, it is impossible to do anything without making advances, and no one will make them, for the means of transportation for an indefinite time are wanting.

As I have already informed you the want of sugar has caused several vessels to proceed to Gantaimano, dispatches from thence to St. John report the brilliant with 120 boxes of sugar, 40 bls. molasses, 85 hogs, 127 bags old rice, and 25,000 cigars. The health of the port is improving, only five cases of cholera within the last two days. There is no political news, save the usual unsettled feeling between the parties.

ST. DOMINGO.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

SANTO DOMINGO, Feb. 9.—President Johnson's party broadside is producing some curious results in wholly unexpected quarters. For good or evil the *dragon's teeth* are sown, and the armed men are springing forth for the battle. Some think that part of his last annual message, which treats of the annexation of Hayti—like those sentences giving his plan for canceling the public debt—were only intended to supply and outline a campaign programme for the use of the Democratic party, but here those hints of annexation are positively founding a strong annexation party.

There is an elaborate affectation of indifference on the part of the leading members of the Government—a calm incredulity as to its possibility seems the official one on the question of annexation—but all this does not conceal the deep, absorbing anxiety of every leading Dominican to learn exactly what *he* does mean, and, above all, whether the President-elect will entertain that line of policy.

Meantime the enemies of the Baez Government are making vigorous use of Mr. Johnson's emphatic sentences to alarm and excite the masses into revolt. They declare that Baez is selling them like serfs to the United States, under whose laws, say they, "black men are still no better than slaves, and no negro's person or property safe." There was some stir in the interior province of Seybo, and something like 200 men gathered in arms, but the revolt was put down almost as soon as raised, and at present there is no sign of revolution. Yet annexation, the most serious of the disturbing questions, still remains unsettled, and may do mischief at last. What does the *Washington Cabinet* wish or intend to do with St. Domingo? Is the common and absorbing question. You may ask in reply "What are the Dominicans ready to do for and with the Washington Cabinet in favor of annexation?" Gen. Grant may almost frame the answer to his own will, but in that, as in all other human measures, the inherent conditions of time and place must be duly considered. Assuming for argument's sake, that he and Congress are disposed to annex Hayti, as the fit and natural accomplishment of the sister States of Cuba and Porto Rico, the wishes and the character of the population cannot well be entirely ignored.

Supposing, then, that the Washington Cabinet will hold that the natives had no rights, and that whatever of life, property, or privilege was left to them was the generous bounty, the pure grace of the noble victor; but annexation has a different meaning, and in this are the arguments of a just, mutual interest are superseding the treacherous logic of the sword.

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The crime of infidelity is defined in official orders as including treason or *leza-nacion*, rebellion, insurrection, conspiracy, sedition, reception of rebels, intelligence with enemies, coalition of laborers and others, manifestations, allelores, &c., for the purpose of disturbing of public order, and in any manner attacking the national integrity. These offenses, as also robbery, will hereafter be tried by Court-martial.

The crying of news in Havana is prohibited. The sellers of newspapers cannot cry out any more than their title. All who make outcry of the articles or affairs which they contain will have their copies confiscated, and be subject to penalty according to the scandal they cause.

Herewith I send you an additional order from the Captain-General, interesting to all who trade with the island. It being indispensable to decree extraordinary means in order to fulfill the peremptory obligations of the Treasury in this island, and meet the increase of expenses consequent upon the state of war which it encounters, and considering that the gravity of the situation demands from its loyal inhabitants, already giving new proofs worthy of all admiration, that they accede to the resolve of its Government to defend, at all costs of person and property, the integrity of the national territory, and to submit to the most rigorous measures of themselves as a sacrifice to the one they imposed upon the other. In the year 1857, for purpose of the civil war which then devastated the peninsula, and in 1850, on occasion of the insurrection which took place in this island. After having heard a commission of proprietors, farmers, manufacturers, and merchants, who have come in the name of said classes, as representing their explicit sentiments, and have ratified unanimously the bases of a project which they have published, I have agreed to approve in all its parts, decreeing in virtue of my plenary powers the following:

1. From March 1, will be exacted in all the Custom-Houses of the Isle, the following export duties: 1 centavo of silver for each box of sugar; 24 centavos for each hoghead of mescalado; 2 centavos upon each tierce of tobacco in leaf; 1 centavo upon each miller of tobacco in leaf.

At the same time will be required in all the Custom-Houses, an additional charge of 5 per cent over the value of the existing import duties.

2. Also, will be enacted, and only in the current fiscal year, a charge of 25 per cent on the quotas of industrial and commercial contributions, excepting contributors whose incomes may be less than 500 escudos annually.

3. Opportune orders will be given for the direct fulfillment of these dispositions. DOMINGO DULCE.
Havana, Feb. 23.

THE STATE OF CUBAN COMMERCE.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Feb. 19.—The different articles of commerce received at present from Spain obtain no sale whatever. The schooner *Joselina* from Malore, and the brig *Diligencia*, both Spanish vessels (the latter touched at Ponce), have arrived here with general cargoes, but in view of the present stagnation of business, will have to carry their products to other ports. American produce, such as lard, potatoes, coal oil, and butter, are in great demand, and, being necessities, obtain good prices. Lumber and coprahe stock are completely unsalable, and large stocks are on hand. Two vessels are expected to arrive shortly with provisions from New-York. As regards sugar, the plantations of Nuevitas, Gibara, Santa Cruz, and Manzanillo have ceased grinding, with the exception of several small ones near Santa Cruz. In our own jurisdiction, thanks to the protection of the troops and volunteers